

A2+ Circle Writing

Aims: To practise and increase learners' confidence in creative writing.
To revise and correct written work.

Length of lesson: 60-90 mins

Level/age: A2+ Elementary – Advanced Teenagers and adults

Language: Simple past tense at lower levels, narrative tenses at higher levels.

Materials: One handout per student with a single sentence at the top.

Preparation: Photocopy the above handout – see below for some example sentences that have worked well.

Procedure:

1. Give out the handout with the single sentence. Explain to learners they are going to write a collaborative story.
2. The learners write the next sentence of the story. They can do this individually or in pairs, it is usually more fun in pairs. Give them 3-4 mins to start with. Then they pass their sheet of paper to the left and everyone reads the first two sentences and adds a third to continue the story. Again give them 3-4 mins or slightly longer as they will have more sentences to read.
3. Repeat the above until you have 8-10 sentences, or you feel they have been writing for long enough and are losing concentration. If you have a gridlock as some sts are writing more slowly than others, you can bypass them and pass the paper on to the next pair.
4. When you have decided it's time to stop, tell the sts they need to write the concluding sentence.
5. Put the learners into groups of 4. They should take the story with their concluding sentence with them. Learners take turns to read "their" stories to their group and the group decides which one they like best. As a group they reread the story, correct any errors and try to make the story the "best piece of writing they can". Higher levels, will be able to add relative clauses, adjectives, signposting language, etc. Lower levels will limit themselves to error correction and perhaps some punctuation. No-one should feel demoralised as the errors are anonymous. Put the stories around the wall so they can be read by everyone.

If you want to make this a 60 min lesson then stop after writing the concluding sentences and do the revision and editing the next lesson.

Some suggestions for first lines of stories:

- It was a lovely day when Daisy got up, so she decided to go for a walk. She
- The phone rang and woke Jim up; he looked at his watch and it was 4 o'clock in the morning. It
- This was the first time she had travelled to another country. Everything ...
- Peter lived with his family in a small house in the town. He ...
- I had dreamt of winning the Nobel Prize for Physics since I was 12 years old.
- Everyone had told him that Sally was a dangerous person to know, but he hadn't listened. Now ...
- One day a stranger knocked at our door. She ...
- Have you ever lost your money and passport when travelling? Well, ...

Contributed by Mary Smith, London
April 2020